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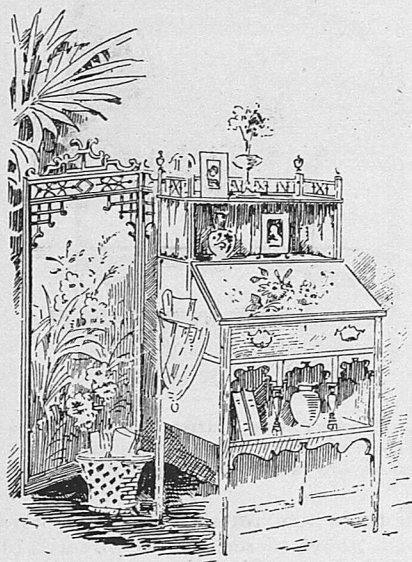
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THE Department of Amateur House Decoration is not only devoted to the construction of such cabinet work, artistic fitments, cosey corners, wall decoration, tapestry painting, pattern designing, embroidery, wood carving, repousse work, poker work, china painting, etc., as may be done by clever amateurs, but in addition to such sketches as we give from time to time in these departments, we also show single pieces of furniture of a more artistic character than could well be produced by the ordinary amateur. Our object in so doing is to cultivate the eye of the reader by the exhibition of fine pieces of furniture, fitments, embroidery, wood carving, etc., so

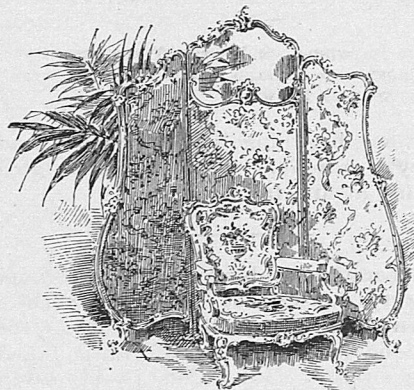


OAK WRITING TABLE AND SCREEN.

as to guide him or her in making a proper selection of beautiful household appointments. Side by side with the home-made cabinet, we present elegant designs in fancy tables, fancy cabinets, curio cabinets, artistic screens, divans, bookcases, writing tables, window draperies, lamps, and an assortment of elegant and artistic novelties in every department of house-furnishing.

The designs published in the current issues of our journal will, we trust, gratify the most fastidious taste in search of beautiful objects of this description, while the more practical information, intended for the benefit of those who are ambitious to construct beautiful belongings for themselves, will maintain the practical aims of the department, and satisfy those in search of guidance in different lines of decorative art work.

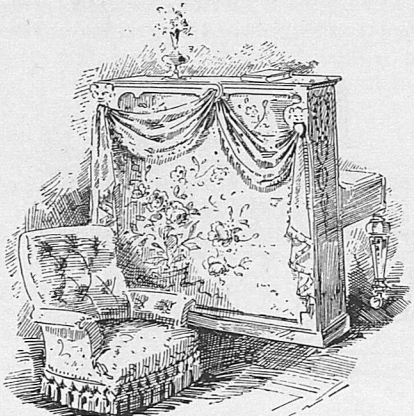
THE writing table and screen shown herewith are made of oak stained green. The former has numerous pigeon holes and drawers, and the canvas



LOUIS XV. SCREEN AND CHAIR.

panels of the latter have faint grey clouded backgrounds, decorated with mimosa and daffodils.

THE Louis XV. screen shown herewith is framed in exquisitely carved walnut. The panels are covered with an English woven brocade, with a flowing ribbon pattern in pink on a pale chocolate and ivory ground. The upper part of the central panel is of glass, so that the screen can be used without excluding the necessary light for reading and working purposes. The chair represented agrees with the screen, both as regards woodwork and upholstery.



ARTISTIC DRAPING FOR UPRIGHT PIANO.

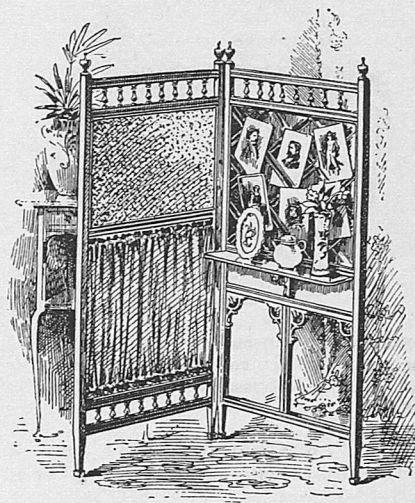
THE artistic draping of the cottage piano also illustrates a novel and artistic method of treating this popular musical instrument. The back is covered with canvas, on which a branch

of Gloire de Dijon, or American Beauty roses is painted. The frame is of rosewood. Two weirdly carved gargoyles are placed on each side, and support the drapery of yellow silk, edged with fringe.

HOW A CLEVER WOMAN BRIGHTENED A DARK HALL WITH PICTURES.

WHAT can be done with an irretrievably dark hallway that in the long, narrow New York house, alas! is not always the chosen haunt of sunshine and cheerful brightness?

One woman has hung hers, from frieze



TWO-FOLD SCREEN, WITH SHELF, MUFFLED GLASS, SILK PANEL, AND PANEL FOR PHOTOS.

to dado with little black and white pictures, and she says 'tis the only possible way to bring light into a hallway's hopeless darkness, says the *Illustrated American*. She did it all so cleverly and inexpensively that it's quite worth telling about:

Her hallway, the gloomy walls of which were hung with portraits, armor and photogravures, weighed on her spirit at goings-out and comings-in. Sometimes she was minded to turn everything upside down, and convert it into a Louis Seize white and gold corridor, but, having spent all her money on just such a transformation scene in the drawing-room, and having a vague recollection of reading in an authoritative article on house decoration that a hallway should express stately dignity in furnishing, she plotted for other ways and means.

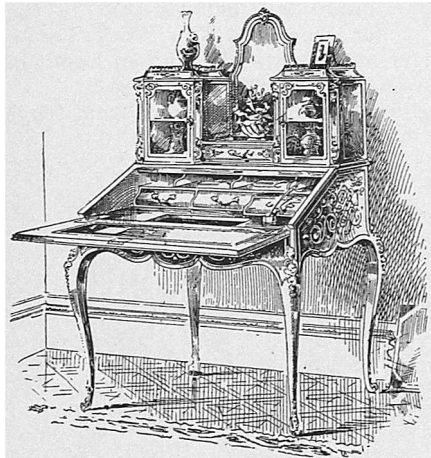
She happened to be looking over a pile of old magazines in which were adorable pen and inks. They were large and small, full-page or medium single figures.

She carefully cut out sixty or more, and then peremptorily ordered down the dismal portraits, photogravures and armor, and had the gray walls painted a clean, dazzling white. A deep stencilled frieze of gilt was put on above a gilded picture molding; then, with the pen and inks under her arm, she went to interview her framer.

She wanted them mounted as inexpensively as possible, in bands of wood, about as wide as her little finger, and enameled white or black, silver or gold.

The lowest estimate the framer could make quite took her breath away, she only gave him about thirty of the pictures, and then she went secretly down to a big dry goods shop, where they have names and pictures for sale in a corner of the basement. Here she found she could get strips of black and white enamel wood, oak and silver framing, for next to nothing.

She bought sufficient for her thirty pictures. At the glazier's she got the benefit of a wholesale price on thirty



INLAID ESCRITOIRE FOR BOUDOIR, FITTED WITH DRAWERS, PIGEON HOLES, WELL FOR PAPERS, CUPBOARDS, ENCLOSED BY GLASS DOORS, AND MIRROR IN PANEL IN BACK.

squares of glass, and then she went to visit an humble little cabinet maker in her neighborhood.

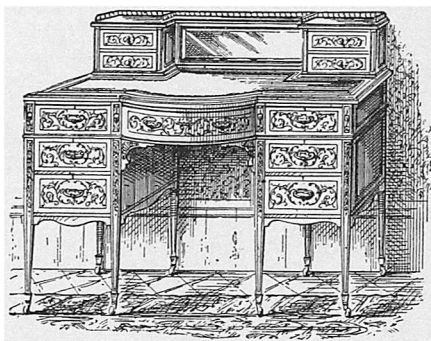
He put the glass and frames and pictures together for a song, and so she framed her sixty pictures within the money limit drawn by her indulgent husband. The family looked on with curiosity not unmingled with scorn when the sixty little pictures came home.

They were of every shape and size. Some not larger than the palm of your hand; some in groups of four running in a row, and now and then there would be six little fellows gathered in one frame, couples and trios, and the majority single squares. Full half were provided with brass rings to be tacked flat against the wall, but the majority were to hang in the orthodox way.

The family called it varnishing day when they gathered on the stairs to watch her hang her treasures and offered impertinent advice. When, weary but triumphant, she made her 756th and last trip down the step ladder, scarce an inch of the white wall was to be seen, having

suddenly sprung into interesting life and unique beauty.

The hallway is radiant with brightness and grace, the mistress goes in and out with a sense of placid pleasure over her decoration, and the young visitor halts as he hangs up his hat, recognizing the smart girl in her opera box, the sepia

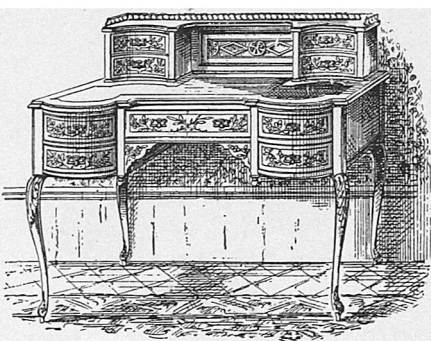


INLAID DRAWING-ROOM WRITING TABLE, WITH BOW FRONT AND REVELED GLASS IN BACK, FITTED WITH SEVEN DRAWERS.

flirtations, beguiling little musmees, and Abbey's adorable Shakespearean girls nodding at him from the walls.

IN decorating a table for a Spring dinner party, one cannot go wrong with a centre of yellow silk ruffled up on the table—or better still—two widths full on to a sateen foundation, twenty-seven inches wide, which, on being laid flat on the table can at once be arranged in pretty, careless looking waves. The lamps should have yellow shades; the flowers in tall greeny bossed glasses, daffodils in their own leaves, or even masses of marsh marigolds; yellow satin doileys, button-holed round in scallops, with the hostess's monogram in soft green. All this makes a pretty fresh ensemble.

A GOOD sized round table is perhaps the prettiest and easiest dinner table to arrange; an especially artistic one had a hanging lamp, with a spreading yellow shade over the centre of the table, where sat a large hammered copper bowl, with ring handles at the sides, filled with a glorious tangle of yellow and coppery toned Japanese chrys-



CARVED DRAWING-ROOM WRITING TABLE, WITH SHAPED FRONT, FITTED WITH NINE DRAWERS AND BRASS GALLERY.

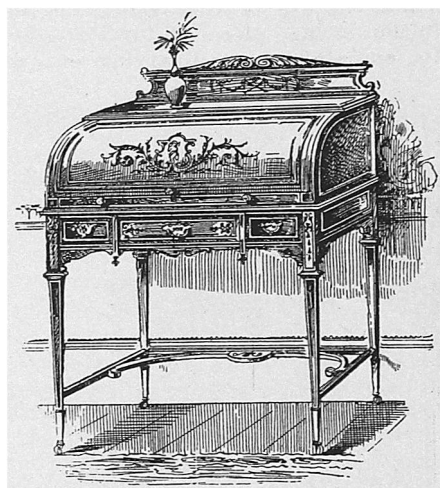
anthemums. From under the bowl came eight yellow silk sashes, each one being tightly drawn—like the spokes of a wheel—until it ended before the plate of one of the eight guests in a careless knot,

through which was passed a red-brown chrysanthemum. The space between the spokes was filled with dessert, bonbons, and the ever enticing Russian salt almonds, in tiny yellow china trays.

FOR a Summer dinner party have pink lamp shades, large clear glass fish bowls filled with red, pink and yellow roses, and soft sashes of turquoise silk, meandering among the flowers, and tied in a large careless bow at either end.

A lovely table may be made with lettuce green sashes, and beaten copper or brass bowls filled with wet sand, and moon-daisies, grass and sorrel standing up in them as if growing.

SOME women—often to excuse a want of energy, or a lack of the priceless power of making the best of things—excuse themselves for a bare, uninteresting dinner table by saying, "You see I haven't got any pretty things." The finest kind of table decorations are flat beaten brass bowls, Benares brass tazzas, and Arab brass finger bowls, which are within the reach of almost everybody,



INLAID DRAWING ROOM WRITING TABLE, CYLINDER FRONT, WITH NUMEROUS DRAWERS AND PIGEON HOLES, AND THREE DRAWERS BELOW.

and if these are interspersed with floral notions, above described, a dinner table cannot fail to be beautiful.

JAPANESE needlework curtains, or panels properly mounted with silk or plush, make nice portières for summer houses. For a hall or reception-room entrance, Turkish or Arabian goods are very effective. Some of them come in the form of rugs, and are heavily fringed, but trimming can be easily made to match if required. They should be hung in a manner in keeping with their character. Use bamboo poles, or, better, suspend them from a rude spear or lance. The effect would be better if, instead of being drawn apart, they were stationary at the top, and were drawn up at the sides with heavy drapery ropes. The lances, spears or whatever was required could be made to order by any brassfounder working for the trade, or they can be made of wood and metalized to exactly resemble any metal required.